

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING DR. PATRICK KERRIGAN ON THE OCCASION OF BEING NAMED "MAN OF THE YEAR" BY WILKES-BARRE FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Dr. Patrick J. Kerrigan, D.O., of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, who was named 2008 "Man of the Year" by the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Greater Wilkes-Barre.

Dr. Kerrigan's contribution to the field of medicine in northeastern Pennsylvania has been truly impressive. Since 1986, he has been engaged in the private practice of family medicine in Wilkes-Barre. He is a provider of geriatric medical care at several nursing homes in the greater Wilkes-Barre area. He is also active in sports medicine, having served as team physician at the little league, high school and college levels.

Dr. Kerrigan has also been active in medical education with the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. For 2 years, he served as a member of the board of directors for the Luzerne County Medical Society. Dr. Kerrigan has also lectured extensively over the years at nursing homes, institutions of higher learning and before the general public on topics that included AIDS, managed care, common orthopedic injuries, heart disease, preventive medicine and physician career choices.

Dr. Kerrigan was appointed medical director of the Heritage House, a skilled nursing facility, in 2003. In 2006, he became medical director of Erwine's Home Hospice Group. Dr. Kerrigan was named president-elect of the medical staff of the Wyoming Valley Health Care System in January, 2007, where he also serves as chairman of the medical executive committee and as a member of the board of directors.

In 2006, Dr. Kerrigan was awarded the "Key to the City of Wilkes-Barre" for 20 years of community service.

Dr. Kerrigan is a member of the Luzerne County, Pennsylvania and American Medical Societies. He is also a member of St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church where he served as a lector. He is also a former member of the board of directors of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Greater Wilkes-Barre.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. Kerrigan on this auspicious occasion. Dr. Kerrigan's determination and commitment to benefit his home town is entirely evident in the vast contributions he has made over the years to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens. His selection as "Man of the Year" is a well deserved honor.

COMMEMORATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABOLITION OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 200th anniversary of U.S. abolition of the slave trade, which marked a historic turning point in our Nation's history.

On March 2, 1807, President Thomas Jefferson signed a bill, which became effective January 1, 1808, abolishing the transatlantic slave trade. The issue of slavery had long been a contentious issue that divided Americans, with those in favor of abolition and those against struggling to reach a compromise. The abolition of the transatlantic slave trade was one step in the quest to end slavery, but the path to full social, political, and economic equality for African Americans would be a long upward battle that would not be reached for over 100 years.

While our forefather's move to formally end the U.S. participation in the transatlantic slave trade was a giant leap toward racial equality, the "color line," as W.E.B. Dubois has called it, still divides America. Even though it has been over a hundred years since the Emancipation Proclamation, the remnants of slavery still exist in the black community, and in America as a whole.

African Americans in the underclass of our cities and the rural areas of the South continue to battle challenges including a dearth of affordable housing, unemployment and a lack of educational attainment. These problems continue to shake the foundations of the black community. African American men and women still bring home smaller paychecks than their white counterparts, African American children still suffer from a lack of qualified teachers and educational resources when compared with their privileged white peers and African American neighborhoods are still under siege from street violence and urban crowding. These problems are not only representative of the pervasive social and economic injustice between the races; these problems are tearing at the threads of the American social fabric.

Despite these challenges, African Americans have made considerable progress. With advancements such as the 14th and 15th Amendments, the Voting Rights and Civil Rights Acts, African Americans began to participate more fully in American life. Since the hard-fought accomplishments of the 20th century, African Americans are now participating in the political, economic, and cultural life of America more than ever before. The commemoration of the bicentennial of the U.S. abolition of the slave trade will allow us to take time to reflect on how far America has come in reaching its dream of racial equality, but it

should also serve as a reminder that as a nation we still have work to do before we can finally erase the color line that divides us.

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS PATRICK BECK RECIPIENT OF THE 2008 DONALD WRIGHT AWARD

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Patrick Beck upon receiving the prestigious Donald Wright Award for distinguished service to the community from the Pasadena Bar Association.

Mr. Beck is a founding partner of Thon, Beck & Vanni, formerly known as Thon & Beck, a highly rated and respected law firm in Pasadena, California, that is celebrating thirty years of existence. Thon, Beck & Vanni specializes in representing seriously injured tort victims.

A member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, Tom is enthusiastically involved in all aspects of his profession. He is a past president of the Pasadena Bar Association, a former board of trustee member of the Los Angeles County Bar Association, and was on the Los Angeles Superior Court Bench and Committee. He is a former president of the Irish American Bar Association and is a founding member of the Cowboy Lawyers Association.

Mr. Beck's professional accomplishments include being a three-time nominee for Los Angeles Trial Lawyers Association's (now known as Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles) Trial Lawyer of the Year, and his recent election as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Tom is an active participant in many community organizations. Some of his past volunteer affiliations include the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association, Loyola Marymount University Alumni Association board of directors, and coaching for Little League, YMCA Basketball and the American Youth Soccer Organization. In 2006, he received the Lasallian Volunteer of the Year Award from LaSalle High School in Pasadena.

Currently, Tom is the chairman of the Methodist Hospital of Southern California Foundation Board, chairman of the Executive Committee of the St. Thomas More Society of Los Angeles, a mentor/benefactor of San Miguel Catholic School, and a member of Helps International.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating Thomas Patrick Beck upon receiving the Pasadena Bar Association's 2008 Donald Wright Award and wish him continued success.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

TRIBUTE TO THE 100TH BIRTHDAY
OF THE SETTLEMENT MUSIC
SCHOOL

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 100th birthday of Settlement Music School, the largest community school of music in the United States. Settlement Music School originated in 1908 at the College Settlement House, a social service center for newly arrived immigrants in south Philadelphia when two young women volunteers, Jeannette Selig and Blanche Wolf, offered piano lessons for a nominal fee. Their effort grew into an independent community school of the arts. Today, there are six Settlement branches serving every zip code in the Greater Philadelphia region. The Jenkintown and Kardon-Northeast branches of Settlement Music School are located in my Congressional District, serving residents of Montgomery County and northeast Philadelphia.

Since its inception, the mission of Settlement Music School has been to provide community-based music and arts instruction and activity to students of all ages, races, religions, economic standings, talent levels and music preferences. In addition to the school's core program, it offers educational and enrichment programs for disabled children and adults, preschool programs for low-income inner-city children, and a Teacher Training Institute to disseminate best practice techniques to the broader educational community. Settlement Music School tuition fees have remained modest with over 60 percent of the student population receiving financial aid.

Annually, close to 15,000 students participate in music, dance and visual arts programs guided by a faculty of experienced and credentialed musicians. Settlement Music School is the largest employer of musicians in Pennsylvania, providing a source of income for many freelance musicians. Since its opening, Settlement Music School has served over 300,000 students. Today there are Settlement graduates in every major symphony in the United States, as well as alumni who have distinguished themselves in the worlds of opera, theater, popular music, and jazz. Settlement Music School has produced Pulitzer prize-winning composers and former students have served as Mayor of Philadelphia, Philadelphia City Council member, Pennsylvania Senator and Representative, and Member of Congress.

Settlement Music School will celebrate this milestone centennial year with banquets, concerts and recitals featuring alumni and present-day students. Settlement Music School will honor the "Settlement 100"—a roster of diverse Settlement alumni whose experiences at Settlement Music School helped to shape their lives.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Settlement Music School's centennial milestone and wishing the alumni, students, teachers, and board directors much continued success.

TRIBUTE TO THE 162ND ANNIVERSARY
OF METROPOLITAN AME
ZION CHURCH

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to acknowledge the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Jersey City, New Jersey, on the celebration of its 162nd anniversary. Metropolitan AME Zion Church, established in 1846, has a long and rich history as the oldest African-American congregation in Jersey City.

Metropolitan AME Zion Church grew out of the John Street Methodist Church, established in 1796 near the African Burial Ground National Monument in New York City. Since its founding in Jersey City 19 years before the United States abolished slavery, the church has occupied several locations in Jersey City and thrived under the leadership of a long line of dedicated pastors.

On March 27, 1968, Metropolitan hosted Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for what would be one of his final speeches. He addressed an overflow crowd of more than 2,000 people promoting his "Poor People's march on Washington."

The deep history of Metropolitan AME Zion Church is a story of strong faith and passionate work on behalf of the surrounding community. Theirs is a journey that we hope will continue for many years to come. I am pleased to congratulate the Metropolitan Church and its current pastor Reverend Nathaniel B. Legay on this momentous occasion.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in wishing the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Jersey City a joyous anniversary and best wishes for the future.

IN TRIBUTE TO
PERCY JULIAN, JR.

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Mr. Percy Julian, Jr., a pioneering civil rights and civil liberties attorney from my home State of Wisconsin. My friend, Percy Julian, Jr., passed away on February 24, 2008, at the age of 67.

Mr. Percy Julian, Jr. helped to make the civil rights laws passed in the Martin Luther King, Jr. era real tools for justice. He became best known for representing University of Wisconsin-Madison students charged in the Dow Chemical demonstrations in the 1960s, and further for handling pioneering employment discrimination and voting rights class action suits across the United States, often in cooperation with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

Percy Julian, Jr. grew up in the Chicago area but made Wisconsin his home. He was son to Percy Julian, Sr., an acclaimed scientist of the 20th century. A 2-hour documentary on Julian Sr., "Forgotten Genius," which aired

last year, not only highlighted his enormous contributions as a chemist, but also detailed how racism had hampered his career. Julian, Jr. said of his father in the documentary, "My father took advantage of the country's promise of equality, but was in some ways undone by the country's failure to live up to that promise." Julian Jr. spent much of his legal career insuring the country met its promises.

Percy Julian, Jr. was both a fierce advocate and a model for other attorneys in promoting the importance of civility. While serving as a State senator in Wisconsin, I called upon Percy Julian, Jr. to utilize his expertise on voting rights and civil rights issues. His presence often caused the other side to retreat rather than face his formidable knowledge base.

He is survived by his wife, Jan Blackmon; daughter, Kathy Julian; and sister, Faith Julian. Wisconsin and our country have lost a valuable leader and a civil rights and civil liberties pioneer. Percy Julian, Jr.'s work in the areas of fair housing, voting rights, school desegregation, and first amendment issues have proved invaluable in preserving the rights of all people in our State and our Nation. I extend my condolences to his family and friends on this tremendous loss. Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to Percy Julian, Jr.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY
CONSERVATION TAX ACT
OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, on February 27, 2008 the U.S. House of Representatives agreed to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5264 by voice vote. Had I been given the opportunity to vote on this measure I would have voted "no" on H.R. 5264, the Trade Preference Extension Act of 2008.

In fact, prior to the voice vote on H.R. 5264, I sent a Dear Colleague with Representatives DALE KILDEE and MARCY KAPTUR to all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives urging our colleagues to vote against extending the Andean Trade Preference Act.

The Trade Preference Extension Act of 2008 extends the Andean Trade Preference Act for another 10 months. Since the last extension, 8 months ago, Congress has still not adequately addressed fundamental problems of labor practices in the region and the agreement's effect on U.S. agriculture. Furthermore, with the on-going debate surrounding the Colombia Free Trade Agreement it is irresponsible to simply extend these preferences without thorough discussions.

Originally passed in 1991, the Andean Trade Preference Act, ATPA, was designed to develop economic alternates to narcotics production in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. However, ATPA has failed to reduce cocaine production, but it has harmed American farmers.

In both Colombia and Peru, the size and production of illegal drug crops has remained virtually unchanged. In a 2001 report to Congress, the U.S. Foreign Agricultural Service said that they "do not believe that Peruvian asparagus production provides an alternative

economic opportunity for coca producers and workers—the stated purpose of the Act.”

As a result of the ATPA, the U.S. had a \$10 billion trade deficit with the four ATPA countries in 2006. Specifically, the asparagus and fresh-cut flower industries have been severely hurt by lower prices. Since the implementation of ATPA, asparagus acreage in the United States dropped from 90,000 acres in 1991 to under 49,000 acres in 2006.

There are 40,000 flower workers in Ecuador and over 100,000 in Colombia working to grow, harvest, and package flowers. Unfortunately, these workers routinely experience labor rights violations including violations of the right to freedom of association. H.R. 5264 does not include stronger labor provisions.

Before agreeing to extend the Andean Trade Preferences Act for a third time, Congress should have taken a closer look at damage it has done to American farmers and how it has failed to reduce illegal drug production in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE JOSE
FRANCISCO “FRANK” TORRES

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Judge Jose Francisco “Frank” Torres, a native of southern Colorado and until his passing a resident of the 3rd Congressional District of New Mexico.

Judge Frank Torres was a crusader for civil rights who upon retirement lived in New Mexico, the home of his ancestors, for 21 years. He was descended from the original Spanish colonists that arrived with General Juan De Onate in 1598 to establish the first European settlement in the United States. He was married to Crusita Kimball Torres, who was a descendant of the first territorial Governor of New Mexico. His daughter, Eva Torres Ashenbrenner, is my constituent, renowned for her involvement in the community and for her love and commitment to New Mexico and its cultural heritage. She continues her father's tradition of community involvement and public service.

Judge Torres practiced and taught good citizenship throughout his life and brought the highest moral values and standards not only to each position he occupied, but to his private life as well.

Judge Torres was an accomplished man who despite adversity became one of the first Hispanic attorneys in Colorado. Among his many accomplishments, Judge Torres strongly opposed the activities of the Ku Klux Klan, organized the first credit unions in southern Colorado in 1938, and was actively involved in the Boy Scouts of America for some 70 years, earning its highest honors “the silver beaver award,” for his leading of Troops and service on the Boy Scouts Regional Council. Also, during the Depression years Judge Torres organized and directed a charitable homeless persons shelter in Trinidad, Colorado, which was one of the earliest efforts in the region.

He provided strong and equal legal representation to everyone, including those too

poor to afford legal representation. He worked to secure the rights and interests of the elderly poor and defended the Alianza Hispano Americana in legal cases brought by the State of Arizona to take control of that organization.

Judge Torres organized and was elected president of the Colorado Spanish American Club, served as president of the Colorado State Board of credit unions, was elected vice-president of the Colorado Young Democrats, and worked as legal counsel to the Las Animas County Catholic Church's Knights of Columbus, representing them at national conventions.

Judge Torres was well known in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and befriended notable New Mexican historians such as Fray Angelico Chavez and Orlando Romero and other notable figures such as Raphael Chacon, Casimire Barela, Elfego Baca, and former Congressman Bronson Cutting.

Madam Speaker, Frank Torres was a crusader during his time as an attorney and judge, and it is fitting that he is honored for his great work and service to the people of Colorado and New Mexico.

THE NATIONAL OCEAN
EXPLORATION PROGRAM ACT

HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, I was pleased to cosponsor and vote for the National Ocean Exploration Program Act, H.R. 1834, which authorizes two excellent and successful National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, programs, the National Undersea Research Program, NURP, and the Ocean Exploration program, OE.

While new technologies have enabled us, for example, to create high-resolution maps of the sea floor, to measure plate movements, or to study ocean processes quantitatively, the world's oceans remain, to a great extent, unknown. We know so little about the ocean's living creatures, nonliving resources, and processes. We don't know enough about the impact of global climate and other environmental change on the ocean. Ocean exploration and ocean research complement each other. Because of the importance of our oceans to life on earth, we need to step up the pace of both exploration and research to be able to make informed decisions about issues related to the ocean.

This bill promotes integration of the two programs, combining their strengths and capabilities, in order to serve our country and NOAA more effectively. NURP has maintained a network of regional centers of undersea science and technology for 30 years, while OE, when established in 2001, began a national effort to explore the ocean. Both programs have been collaborating in development of innovative technologies for exploration, and on voyages of exploration, such as an expedition in the South Pacific that discovered new marine environments and ecosystems.

The complementary relationship between the two programs within NOAA will make the

whole greater than the sum of its parts. The bill's authorization of these programs will help provide the best scientific information on ocean habitats and other phenomena, and will ensure that this information is widely distributed. We must explore and work to reveal the unknown so that we can deepen our understanding of crucial oceanic environmental issues and inspire scientists, educators, decision-makers, and the public to learn more about the ocean. In the coming years, America's economic, environmental and national security may depend on our knowledge of the ocean, and our understanding of how it sustains life on earth.

TRIBUTE TO THE PEACE CORPS
47TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support and appreciation for the Peace Corps on their 47th anniversary. Since 1961, more than 190,000 American volunteers have served in 139 developing countries around the world. Since its founding, the Peace Corps has sought to meet its legislative mandate of promoting world peace and friendship by sending American volunteers to serve at the grassroots level in villages and towns abroad. These Peace Corps volunteers live and work with local people, helping them improve their lives, and helping them understand American culture. The volunteers often work as teachers, environmental and agriculture specialists, health promoters, and small business advisors.

I have been an extremely strong supporter of the Peace Corps ever since President John F. Kennedy first proposed it in a speech in Ann Arbor, Michigan, many years ago. The Peace Corps is one of America's most effective ways to share our compassion and values abroad, and, in many instances, the volunteers play the important role of dispelling myths about the U.S. I would dearly love to see the Peace Corps double or triple in size.

I also praise and recognize those volunteers from the Third Congressional District of Michigan who are currently serving abroad in the Peace Corps. My thanks go out to: Chad Anderson, serving in Uganda; Brent Benner, serving in Peru; Edna Bermejo, serving in Mauritania; Brendan Brink-Halloran, serving in Guatemala; Amanda Collier, serving in Romania; Christopher De Bruyn, serving in Mongolia; Adrienne Gilbert, serving in the Dominican Republic; Sara Igleski, serving in Jordan; Rachel Jacobs, serving in Zambia; Joshua Johnson, serving in Romania; Jeffrey Luehm, serving in El Salvador; Elizabeth Smith, serving in Senegal; Joseph Stevens, serving in Bolivia; Daniel Vander Ploeg, serving in Kazakhstan; Meredith Vanover, serving in Ukraine; Kirstin Webster, serving in Romania; Daniel Westerhof, serving in Paraguay; and Michael Wilcox, serving in Senegal.

Again, congratulations to the Peace Corps on their 47th anniversary. I thank and commend all of those who so faithfully volunteer to serve our Nation abroad.

HONORING WIL COOKSEY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of KENTUCKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wil Cooksey for his service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Mr. Cooksey, a resident of Bowling Green, Kentucky, recently retired as plant manager of the General Motors Bowling Green Assembly Plant.

Mr. Cooksey served as plant manager at the "Home of the Corvette" since 1993. The Bowling Green facility employs approximately 1,000 total employees and assembles 35,000 Chevrolet Corvettes and 4,000 Cadillac XLRs per year. Under Mr. Cooksey's leadership the Corvette team has earned more than 70 automotive industry awards since 1997 including Motor Trend Car of the Year, JD Power Silver Plant Award, JD Power APEAL Award, and Car and Driver Top 10.

Mr. Cooksey has been a successful advocate for building diversity at the Bowling Green facility, recruiting qualified minority students from schools not used in the past. Mr. Cooksey has also been active on the Executive Advisory Board of Advancing Minorities' Interest in Engineering and 100 Black Men of America Inc. For his hard work, Mr. Cooksey was recently awarded the Civil Rights Humanitarian Award by the State Street Baptist Church.

Mr. Cooksey is also an active member of the Greenview Hospital board of directors, the boards of the National Corvette Museum, Tennessee State University, Western Kentucky University's College of Education and Behavioral Science, and the Drug Abuse Resistance Education Advisory Council.

It is my privilege to honor Wil Cooksey today, before the entire United States House of Representatives, for his service to the Bowling Green community. I wish Wil, and his wife Elizabeth, a happy and healthy retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, from late January 29 through February 7, 2008, I was unavoidably detained due to my daughter's heart surgery.

On January 29, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 27 and 28. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both votes.

On February 6, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 29 through 31. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three votes.

On February 7, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 32 through 42. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on Nos. 32, 33, 36, 37, and 38, and "aye" on Nos. 34, 35, 39, 40, 41, and 42.

CONGRATULATING MR. JAY DELANEY ON THE OCCASION OF BEING NAMED "MAN OF THE YEAR" BY THE GREATER PITTSSTON FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Jay Delaney, of Hughestown, Pennsylvania, who was selected as the 2008 "Man of the Year" by the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

Mr. Delaney is a lifelong resident of the Greater Pittston community and is a leader in business, civic, and government affairs. He presently serves as executive assistant to Pennsylvania State Senator Raphael Musto, a post he has held since 1994.

Mr. Delaney was associated with Wilson Foods Corporation from 1952 to 1994, retiring as regional sales manager for the northeastern United States covering eight States including Washington, DC. He was named manager of the year in 1987 after he earned a place in the "General's Club" of Wilson Foods in 1982. Also in 1987, he became president of the prestigious Wilson Foods Ring Club.

Mr. Delaney was mayor of Hughestown borough from 1982 to 1989. He served as a member of Hughestown borough council from 1969 to 1977. He was also chairman of the Hughestown Democratic organization for 4 years and successfully chaired the special election to the 11th Congressional District in 1980 on behalf of then State Representative Raphael Musto.

He is a member of the Blessed Sacrament Church, Hughestown; a former member of the Earth Conservancy Land Use Planning Committee; former member of the American Heart Association and former member of the Luzerne County Democratic Executive Committee. He has received national recognition by the American Cancer Society, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Muscular Dystrophy Association, and St. Jude's Children's Hospital. He has served on the board of directors of the Harvey's Lake Yacht Club and is a charter member of the Nutty Buddy Club of Greater Pittston. He is a life member of the John F. Kennedy Council 372, Knights of Columbus and its Fourth Degree Assembly; the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick; life member of the Hughestown Hose Company; and a member of the Salvation Army advisory board.

Mr. Delaney and his wife, Dorothy, to whom he has been married for 51 years, are the parents of four children and seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Delaney on this special occasion. Mr. Delaney's service to family and community is extraordinary and an inspiration to all. His selection for this honor reflects the respect with which he is held by his neighbors and peers.

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE'S "THE OPPORTUNITY COMPACT," A BLUEPRINT FOR ECONOMIC EQUALITY

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Congressional Urban Caucus, it gives me great pleasure to welcome Marc H. Morial, President and CEO of the National Urban League (NUL), and delegations from Urban League affiliates from around the country to Washington, DC for their 5th Annual Legislative Policy Conference on March 5-6, 2008. Over the course of these two days, the NUL unveils its annual landmark State of Black America report, meets with Congressional leaders, and brings a slate of key policy recommendations to members of both houses.

Established in 1910, the National Urban League is the Nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization devoted to empowering African Americans to thrive in the economic and social mainstream. Today, the National Urban League, headquartered in New York City, spearheads the non-partisan efforts of its 101 local affiliates in 36 states and the District of Columbia, providing direct services to more than 800,000 people annually, and impacting millions more through its advocacy and research.

This year the NUL and its affiliate delegates are bringing to Congress an important blueprint for economic equality known as The Opportunity Compact. The Compact is a comprehensive set of principles and policy recommendations set forth by the National Urban League (NUL) designed to empower all Americans to be full participants in the economic and social mainstream of this Nation. In pursuit of this end, the NUL (1) identifies principles that reflect the values inherent in the American dream; (2) examines the conditions that have separated a significant portion of the American population—particularly the poor and disadvantaged residents of urban communities—from accessing that dream; (3) proposes, for honest evaluation and discussion, several policy recommendations intended to bridge the gap between conceptualization and realization of the American dream.

The Opportunity Compact is the culmination of extensive research and policy analysis by the National Urban League Policy Institute (NULPI) and is based upon the input of dozens of policy experts from academia, public policy think tanks, non-profit service and advocacy organizations, the business sector, and the Urban League movement. Among other things, the NULPI hosted a series of five roundtable discussions and obtained feedback and recommendations from numerous experts concerning the development of a coherent and comprehensive plan for empowering the Nation's urban communities. As the foundation for such a plan, NUL has clearly identified four cornerstones that reflect the values represented by the American dream: (1) The Opportunity to Thrive (Children), (2) The Opportunity to Earn (Jobs), (3) The Opportunity to Own (Housing) and (4) The Opportunity to Prosper (Entrepreneurship). These cornerstones are supported by a list of ten policy priorities.

Each of these opportunities for upward economic and social mobility are available in few other countries outside the United States. Therefore, maintaining equal access to these opportunities is a vital part of preserving the very principles that make this country unique and will prove to be an effective way to eliminate gaps in income, wealth and educational attainment within this country that are too often defined along the lines of race or socioeconomic status.

The Opportunity Compact serves as a vehicle to develop a serious plan of action to address the persistent inequalities faced by those in urban communities. Yet, all Americans, regardless of place of residence or racial identity, can benefit from the policy recommendations presented in this blueprint for economic equality. Furthermore, there is a role for all parties to play—private citizens, national, state and local governments, community-based service providers and the business community—as together, we seek to strengthen our Nation by maximizing the potential of all its citizens. By generating new ideas, initiating productive partnerships and fostering collaboration, The Opportunity Compact seeks to expand access to the incentives and rewards that act as the driving force behind what makes this country great—personal responsibility, initiative and hard work.

Madam Speaker, I firmly believe that the proposals embodied in the National Urban League's Opportunity Compact provide a powerful framework for approaching the difficult challenges faced by America's cities. I therefore rise today to congratulate the National Urban League for its work on behalf of cities and for bringing The Opportunity Compact to the attention of Congress.

TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA J. KURTZ

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cynthia J. Kurtz, who recently retired from her post as City Manager of Pasadena, California. Ms. Kurtz served the City for over 20 years, spending the last 10 years as the chief administrative officer of Pasadena's diverse community of 144,000 residents and has left a legacy that will be enjoyed by generations to come.

In her capacity as city manager, Cynthia was responsible for over 2,300 employees with an operating budget of over \$550 million. With a keen vision for the "big picture" and a wealth of experience to draw upon, she was the driving force behind some of the most important projects in the city's history.

Cynthia came to Pasadena after 10 years of employment with the city of Portland, Oregon, where she held a variety of positions in the Office of Transportation and the Bureau of Economic Development. That experience served Pasadena well when she was hired as the City's Capital Program Administrator in 1987. In 1991, she became director of public works for the City of Pasadena where she shepherded high profile projects such as the delicate \$24 million reconstruction of the historic Colorado Street Bridge.

During my years in the California State Senate, I worked with Cynthia on the planning for

a light rail line from Los Angeles to Pasadena, and her contributions to that project were vital to its success. Completed on time and under budget, the Gold Line light rail project has been an invaluable asset to the San Gabriel Valley, and especially to Pasadena.

The Pasadena City Council was well aware of Cynthia's hard work on their behalf, and when the position of city manager became open in 1998, she was the first woman to be appointed to that post. As city manager, she first concentrated on solidifying budget procedures while also attending to the quality of life issues that make Pasadena a special place to live and work.

Ms. Kurtz's most recent landmark achievement was last year's completion of a \$118 million renovation of historic Pasadena City Hall. When the structure was determined to be seismically vulnerable, she worked with her staff to create a plan that would safeguard Pasadena employees while also preserving this most recognizable jewel of the "Crown City." The project was completed ahead of schedule and continues to stand as a testament to Pasadena's rich architectural heritage.

Cynthia Kurtz has been an invaluable asset to the city of Pasadena, and I ask all Members to join me in thanking Cynthia J. Kurtz for over 2 decades of dedicated service.

HONORING THE EASTERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce on achieving an important milestone, its 75th anniversary. Since 1933, the Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce has tirelessly promoted its members and the economic health of our community. I am honored to represent this organization in Congress.

In 1933, the Jenkintown Businessmen's Association was incorporated with just 44 members. Since that time, the chamber has changed its name a number of times to mark its growth within the business community. In 1961, the organization became the Jenkintown Chamber of Commerce. By 1968, the organization became known as the Greater Jenkintown Chamber of Commerce to reflect the expansion of its service area. In 1992, the chamber became the Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce.

While successfully fulfilling its mission to support and promote local businesses of all sizes, the chamber has also successfully established strong community ties. The chamber has partnered with area businesses to host the annual Best of the Burbs celebration of business cultural and community events, featuring the chamber's annual Business Expo, which showcases over 100 area businesses. In 2003, the chamber established Leadership Montgomery County, an innovative program dedicated to strengthening the personal and professional skills of our community's future leaders.

The chamber's active board of directors and committed staff implement outreach, advocacy

and fundraising activities to strengthen the chamber's enduring presence in the community. Over the past 75 years, the Eastern Montgomery Chamber of Commerce has served as a powerful catalyst, uniting businesses, community agencies, government officials, and educational institutions to make our community a great place to live and work.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's 75th anniversary milestone and wishing the chamber and its members many more years of community enrichment and service.

TRIBUTE TO MONSIGNOR WILLIAM J. LINDER

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to acknowledge the lifetime service of Monsignor William J. Linder, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newark, New Jersey and founder of the New Community Corporation.

Monsignor Linder has served in the Catholic priesthood for more than 44 years, spending the entire length of his ministry in Newark, New Jersey. For the past 31 years he has been the pastor of St. Rose of Lima parish, a multi-ethnic and multi-racial congregation with representation from 42 nations around the world.

The New Community Corporation celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. Its history is filled with stories of service to the city of Newark. The New Community Corporation is the most comprehensive and largest community development organization in the United States, employing over 1600 individuals and providing urban dwellers with housing, day care, alternative education, social services, job training, employment services and health care.

Monsignor Linder has received many honors and awards including the HUD Distinguished Service Award, The National Association of Home Builders Housing Hall of Fame award, the Aetna Foundation Voice of Conscience Award, the MacArthur Foundation Fellows Award and the Governor's Gold Medal (NJ). He was also selected by President Clinton to attend the president's first inauguration as one of the 60 "Faces of Hope" and by President Bush to participate in a conference on faith-based initiatives.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in honoring a wonderful servant to humanity. I am pleased to recognize his tremendous contributions to the city of Newark and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

IN TRIBUTE TO LOUVENIA JOHNSON

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a woman of faith,

journalist, businesswoman, communicator and grassroots activist from the Fourth Congressional District. Mrs. Louvenia Johnson passed away on February 27, at the age of 96.

Born in McDermott, Arkansas, Mrs. Johnson relocated to Milwaukee in 1939, with her husband, Paul Johnson, who preceded her in death. She worked in the health care field as a Licensed Practical Nurse. She was Executive Director of Project Focal Point, a youth and elderly service agency. After retirement in 1981, she established "The Christian Times" with three others: Nathan Conyers, Lynda Jackson-Conyers, and the late Luther Golden. The weekly newspaper was devoted to church news within the city's African American faith community. The paper was renamed "The Milwaukee Times Weekly Newspaper" as it began to cover more general community news. The Christian Times remains as a standing feature section of that newspaper to this day.

Louvenia Johnson established "The Black Excellence Awards Program" in 1985, to recognize the good works of ordinary people from Milwaukee's black community whose accomplishments had gone unnoticed. The awards program observed its 23rd year on February 15, 2008. More than 680 local citizens whose activities have benefited all of Milwaukee have been recipients of the award.

Mrs. Johnson established The Louvenia Johnson Journalism Scholarship Fund in 1988 to assist college-bound high school graduates who wished to pursue careers in print and broadcast journalism. She initially funded the scholarship with money from her Social Security benefits. The scholarship funds are awarded during The Black Excellence Awards Program. To date, more than \$350,000 has been awarded to area students through this non-profit, charitable organization. Previous scholarship recipients include Jamaal Abdul-Alim, an urban affairs reporter for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel; and Silvia Acevedo, news reporter for WTMJ-TV/Channel 4 in Milwaukee.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to Louvenia Johnson who is survived by her siblings, Mr. Harvey Williams, Mrs. Algenora Davenport, nieces, nephews and many friends. Mrs. Johnson has made a positive impact on Milwaukee and her contributions and legacy continue to benefit the citizens of the Fourth Congressional District.

NORTHWEST INDIANA BUSINESS
AND INDUSTRY HALL OF FAME

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with the utmost sincerity and admiration that I rise to commend seven exceptional business leaders from Northwest Indiana who will be honored as the inaugural class of the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame. Created by The Times and BusIness magazine, induction into the Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame is determined by a panel of local civic and business leaders. While there were many deserving nominees, the individuals selected as the 2008 Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame inductees

are: Mark Maassel, Donald Powers, Mamon Powers, Jr., Denis Ribordy, Frank Van Til, Robert Welsh, Jr., and Dean White. For their many contributions to the enhancement of Northwest Indiana, these honorees will be recognized at a ceremony taking place at the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza in Merrillville, Indiana, on Friday, March 7, 2008.

Mark Maassel is the former president of the Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO), as well as a leader of the Northwest Indiana Forum. For many years, Mark has been seen as an innovative leader, not only in terms of his profession, but for his charitable efforts in the community as well. In one of many examples, Mark is largely credited with bringing together the United Way campaigns throughout Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties in Indiana. He has also been an active leader with the Indiana Humanities Council, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, and the Ivy Tech Foundation.

Donald Powers is the president and CEO of the Community Foundation of Northwest Indiana, Inc. and the Community Healthcare System and the founder of a very successful real estate development company. Known throughout Northwest Indiana and beyond for his vision and determination, Donald is credited with the development of Munster, Indiana, as well as the Community Hospital and the Center for Visual and Performing Arts. In addition, he has been instrumental in the development of the Purdue University-Calumet campus in Hammond, Indiana.

Mamon Powers, Jr. is the president and CEO of Powers and Sons Construction Company, Inc., the company founded by his father in 1967. After learning the value of hard work and dedication from his father, Mamon took over the company and has always found a way to give back to his community. Mamon has always been active in serving the youth and has been a constant supporter of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana. In addition, he also serves as a trustee with Purdue University.

Denis Ribordy was the owner of Ribordy Drugs, Inc., a very successful chain of twenty-six drug stores throughout Indiana, prior to its sale in 1985. He was also president and CEO of Ribordy Enterprises, which consisted of eight Hallmark stores. Having started his drug store business in Gary, Indiana, in 1955, Denis has always remained active in the community. Throughout his career, Denis has been recognized on numerous occasions for his commitment to Tradewinds and many charities throughout his community.

Frank Van Til is the co-owner of Van Til's supermarket in Hammond, Indiana. Raised in the grocery store business, Frank's parents opened their first store in Hammond in 1936. The Van Til family eventually went into business with the Strack family to create what would become a successful chain of 29 supermarkets throughout Indiana and Illinois. Although the Strack and Van Til stores were sold in 1998, Frank continues to operate Van Til's supermarket in Hammond. Not only did Frank learn the grocery business from his father, but he also learned the importance of being an active member of the community, and to this day, he remains an active member of many civic and charitable organizations in Northwest Indiana.

Robert Welsh, Jr. was the owner of the former Welsh Oil Company and is the current

CEO and chairman of Welsh Holdings LLC. Throughout his career, Robert's innovative thinking has made him a true pioneer in his field. As the owner of Welsh Oil Company, he is credited with many modern advancements, including self-serve gasoline stations, alcohol-blended fuels, and food service within gasoline stations. Robert has been the recipient of many accolades, not only for his business ventures, but also for his constant commitment to his community. Most notably, Robert has been recognized as the University of Notre Dame's Man of the Year. Always an advocate of the youth, Robert has been an active contributor to the Calumet Council of the Boy Scouts of America for over 30 years.

Dean White, CEO of Whiteco Industries, is credited with turning Merrillville, Indiana into the retail center that it is today. Dean is the founder of the Star Plaza in Merrillville, and he has developed much of the surrounding area, which includes hotels, businesses, shops, and offices. With business ventures ranging from billboard advertising to residential and hotel development to high-technology innovations, Dean's holdings include companies local to Northwest Indiana as well as businesses throughout the world. While Dean's contributions to business and development in Northwest Indiana are well known, it is equally important to acknowledge the impact he has made on his community through his constant support of local charities and organizations in the area.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding leaders on their induction into the Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame. These individuals are most deserving of being named the Inaugural Class of 2008, and for their leadership and commitment to the Northwest Indiana community, each of the recipients is worthy of our respect and admiration.

IN HONOR OF THE NATIONAL
PEACE CORPS WEEK AND THOSE
SERVING IN THE PEACE CORPS
FROM THE 24TH DISTRICT OF
TEXAS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the Peace Corps and its 47 years of service. Nearly 200,000 U.S. citizens have served their country, as well as instilling peace and goodwill in 139 countries abroad, since March 1, 1961. The week of February 25–March 3, 2008 was celebrated around the U.S. as National Peace Corps Week.

Currently 15 residents of the 24th District of Texas are serving abroad in 14 different countries. These selfless individuals should be recognized for their commitment to peace and development.

Their names and respective countries of service are as follows: Ryan Alvares—Mozambique; Lauren Banta—Senegal; Andrew Birdsell—Ecuador; Melanie Bittle—Nicaragua; Eric Brooke—Bulgaria; Kira Cha—Costa Rica; David Fox—Macedonia; Courtney Gilman—Gambia; Robert Henderson—Ukraine; Mary Jones—Georgia; Jamie Lewis—Malawi; Curtis

Miller—Bolivia; Katherine Moore—Kenya; John Poulter—China; and Carin Wunneburger—Senegal.

It is my honor to recognize these individuals and the long-standing institution known throughout the globe. The people of the 24th District of Texas are proud of their achievements. I wish them and all members of the Peace Corps the best of luck and an eventual safe return home.

IN HONOR OF FRANK THOMPSON
AND HIS SERVICE TO SPOKANE
COUNTY VETERANS

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Frank Thompson. On March 1, 2008, Mr. Thompson, Director of the Spokane County Veteran Services, retired from his post in Spokane County, after an honorable 32-year career in veterans' services. In a time when our country acknowledges how much we depend upon our soldiers, and accordingly understand what honor, respect, and responsibility is owed to them when they become veterans, Frank Thompson stands out as an example of what it means to truly dedicate oneself to these deserving men and women, to serve them in a meaningful way.

Frank Thompson grew up in Pittsburgh, PA, and attended West Virginia Wesleyan College, graduating with a B.A. in social studies in 1967. When he entered the Air Force 3 months later, he began a lifelong attachment to the military which would continue all the way up to today. He later went on to serve 4 years in the Strategic Air Command during the Vietnam War. Upon being discharged, he attended graduate school at Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA. Earning an M.A. in counseling in 1975, he also entered the Washington Air National Guard, joining the 105th Tactical Air Control Squadron. It is obvious, Mr. Speaker, that Frank Thompson's dedication to the United States and his willingness to serve in the armed forces can never be doubted.

Frank began his service of three decades to American veterans on February 1, 1976, when he began working at the Spokane County Veteran Services as a Veterans Contact Representative. His reliability and talent shown through when, just 4 years later, he was appointed director in 1980. Mr. Speaker, he did all this while still serving in the Washington Air National Guard and did not retire from military service until December of 1991, having attained the rank of major. He continued his honorable work at the Spokane County Veteran Services until this past week.

Madam Speaker, I thank Frank Thompson for his service to those who sacrificed so much for their country. I praise him as example to us all of what true responsibility to our veterans looks like. And I offer my best wishes for him and his family as they open this new chapter in their lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on February 28, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my votes for roll-call Nos. 85–87.

Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 85—"yes"—John "Marty" Thiels Southpark Station.

Rollcall No. 86—"yes"—Sgt. Jason Harkins Post Office Building.

Rollcall No. 87—"yes"—Iraq and Afghanistan Fallen Military Heroes of Louisville Memorial Post Office Building.

HONORING WINIFRED ANN
WATERS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, a community is an aggregate of its residents, but its quality of life is determined by the dedication of those who devote themselves to the welfare of their community. Winifred Ann Waters, known to all of us as Winnie, is a born and bred Bronx girl who has devoted herself to her community and the people in it.

She was born to Peter and Elizabeth McGee and grew up on Cypress Avenue and 138th Street. Her father died when she was a youthful teenager and she grew up helping her mother care for her siblings, Jimmy, Louis, and Veronica.

Winnie was 16 when she first met Jimmy Waters, who was to become her husband. They have now been happily married for 40-plus years, and have 4 children, Jimmy, Vincent, Peter and Mary, who gave them 6 grandchildren with a seventh on the way.

After working for several years in the private sector Winnie left to have her first child. In 1985 she began working at Community Board 12 as a community associate with one of her responsibilities taking the complaints of unhappy citizens.

Taking lemons and making lemonade, she established many lasting and close relationships over the years. She is one of a rare breed who works unselfishly without need for credit or praise. In time she started to adopt the community as a second family and devoting herself to making the community a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Now, no matter where Winnie walks in the Community Board 12 neighborhood, she is recognized by all. She will be greatly missed in her retirement but her goal of making the community a family environment is one that we will continue to follow from her fine example.

I sincerely thank her for all that she has done for the people of her community. She is an inspiration to all.

A BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO
WILBERT TATUM AND THE AM-
STERDAM NEWS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate two birthdays.

Wilbert "Bill" Tatum never shies away from a good fight. The publisher emeritus of Amsterdam News, starting in 1978, ran editorials excoriating then-Mayor of New York, Democrat Ed Koch, once a week—every week—on the paper's front page. The recurring, and unrelenting, box read: "Why Koch Should Resign." By the time Koch left office a decade later, Tatum had turned his attention to another New York mayor, this time Republican Rudolph Giuliani. He demanded his resignation, too.

Throughout his life, which this year eclipses the 75-year mark, Tatum has been unafraid to show his mettle. He has railed against one-time popular policies—the invasion of Iraq and racial profiling—and defended unpopular, often controversial figures. The man who forged a niche for himself in black journalism, and broadened the field with his editorial perspective, is all about developing big ideas—and sticking to them. "Don't worry about your beliefs if they are yours," Tatum writes in a recent column. "If you have to depend upon somebody else's beliefs, then you have no beliefs at all." On the anniversary of his birth, it is that unflappable spirit we celebrate, honor, and uplift.

He's a self-billed "pragmatic idealist." As the director of community relations for the city's building department, he fervently sought to develop new housing in poor neighborhoods. He spent a winter's night in 1967, huddled in an evacuated and unheated Queens housing development, just to highlight the plight of tenants. He, years later, lobbied then-Governor Mario Cuomo to establish a toll-free telephone line that gave residents tips, and accepted their complaints, about drug trafficking. But over the past quarter century, he's made his mark in the media.

He owned financial interests in Inner City Broadcasting Corp, Apollo Theatre, and two radio stations, WLBI and WBLI. He served a brief stint as co-publisher of the New York Post in 1993, alongside real estate developer Abe Hirschfeld. And through the pages of the Amsterdam News, the Harlem-based Black weekly that came under his direction in 1982, Tatum developed his own voice.

That paper projected a critical and focused voice of its own, particularly at a time when issues of concern to African Americans were largely ignored by the mainstream media. It all began nearly 100 years ago—with nothing but \$10, six sheets of paper, a lead pencil, and a table as its initial capital—and, in short order, it became New York's largest and most influential Black-owned, Black-operated business. At its zenith, its circulation peaked 100,000 and by the 1940s, it had become a leading black paper along with the storied Pittsburgh Courier, the Afro-American, and the Chicago Defender. Greats like W.E.B. DuBois, Roy Wilkins, and Adam Clayton Powell contributed to its pages. As one of the most frequently quoted black weeklies in the world, it says its

strength lies in its "shaping the advancement and realization of Black aspirations."

It now commands an irrefutable spot on the mantle of American Black history. It made visible the invisible; gave speech to the voiceless. It championed the causes of civil rights, amplifying the too-often muffled calls from the community. It fought for integration in the Armed Forces during World War II and was at the forefront in covering events such as the Montgomery bus boycott in Alabama. Tatum, himself, has been lauded for taking the paper in a new, fresh direction—harkening back to its history while remaining modern and relevant. He's expanded its coverage of international affairs, attracting a wide variety of new readership from all corners of the local, national, and even international market.

Tatum was born in January 23, 1933, in a three-room shack in Durham, North Carolina, 10th out of 13 siblings, against the backdrop of segregation and summers of tobacco-field toil. He today boasts a degree from Pennsylvania's Lincoln University, the oldest Black university in the U.S., a master's in urban studies from Occidental College in L.A., and a National Urban fellowship at Yale. Out of work in segregationist America, "too well-educated" to land a post as a janitor at any of the New York newspapers, and instead, tried his luck as a reporter and columnist in Europe.

But he has since carved out a safe space of his own, assuming the leadership of a historic paper and injecting his powerful voice into the dialog. He has all our best wishes on his birthday and in this year, as his paper celebrates a milestone—a century's worth of scoops, awards, exclusives, and history-making. We are all the better for it.

HONORING THE PEAK CENTER OF LANSDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate The Peak Center of Lansdale, Pennsylvania, for receiving National Institute of Senior Centers accreditation. Of the 15,000 senior centers in America, The PEAK Center is one of only 153 senior centers to receive this high honor, bestowed by the National Institute of Senior Centers, a constituent unit of the National Council on Aging.

The National Institute of Senior Centers mark of accreditation demonstrates the PEAK Center's outstanding service and commitment to seniors who live in the North Penn region of my district. As part of the accreditation process, staff evaluated their current programs and developed a 3-year strategic plan that will facilitate the development of additional programs and services. Accreditation demonstrates the Peak Center's outstanding leadership and commitment to continuing their tradition of developing quality programs and services for adults.

The Peak Center's mission is to support wellness and quality of life for adults over 55 years of age and promote their participation in all aspects of community life. The staff of the PEAK Center works diligently to maintain the center as a hub of learning and activity in the

community. The center has year-round programs that engage adults in lifelong learning pursuits, some in cooperation with local corporations and civic groups. Programs include aerobics, studio art, health screening, computer training, and the "Senior Environment Corps." I have been pleased to recognize the Peak Center's active participation in the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the PEAK Center on receiving National Institute of Senior Centers accreditation and wishing this important organization many more years of success.

COMMEMORATING THE COURAGE OF THE HAITIAN SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT FOR AMERICAN INDE- PENDENCE IN THE "SIEGE OF SAVANNAH" AND FOR HAITI'S INDEPENDENCE AND RENUNCI- ATION OF SLAVERY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution commemorating the courage of the Haitian soldiers who fought for American independence in the "Siege of Savannah." This resolution also honors those soldiers who fought for Haiti's independence and the renunciation of slavery. As a cosponsor of this legislation, I would like to express my appreciation for the efforts of my good friend from Florida, Congressman KENDRICK B. MEEK, for introducing this important legislation and for the House Leadership for bringing it to the floor for a vote.

The War for American Independence was not easily won, and it took the contributions of an untold number of American patriots. It is important that we continue to remember those heroes who gave their lives for the freedoms we can enjoy today. In 1779, American rebels fought to take back the city of Savannah from the British. This resolution commemorates a group of 500 Haitian volunteers who fought valiantly alongside the patriot forces for more than 2 weeks as the siege continued. It is important for us to take this moment to commemorate and honor the memory and sacrifice of the 300 Haitians who gave their lives during that historic battle.

It is fitting that a monument to these brave men now stands in Savannah, Georgia, where this momentous fight took place. It is also fitting that the monument depicts a young Henri Christophe, a man who helped gain Haitian independence and end slavery in that country.

Mr. Christophe and his compatriots fought valiantly for the causes of liberty and justice on both American and Haitian soil, proving their deep commitment to these ideals. Their desire for liberty is not yet fulfilled, so we must continue to work with the people of Haiti to realize the dreams of their founders.

We can hardly begin to measure the ways in which the people of Haiti have shaped our country. In South Florida, residents of Haitian descent have contributed so much to the fabric of our community. Their culture, heritage, and traditions have influenced almost every

single corner of our society. South Florida—so rich in diversity—would not be what it is today without the Haitian people. From the beginning of our history, the Haitian people have left their mark on America and have helped to shape our great nation. In fact, the contributions of Haitians began before our country had even won its independence, and they continue to this very day.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this important resolution and honor the valor and ideals of the Haitian soldiers who fought for American independence and to end the practice of slavery.

RECOGNIZING BOBBIE AND DON CASSANO

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker I rise today to recognize the achievements of two outstanding people from my hometown, Tempe, Arizona—Don and Bobbie Cassano. My pride in their contributions is magnified because I also count them among my friends.

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce recently presented them with the 2008 Spirit of Tempe Award during the annual Breakfast for Chamber Champions on February 29th. This award recognized business people who "go above and beyond".

The soul of any community is its people, and Don and Bobbie Cassano have epitomized the spirit that makes Tempe such an outstanding community. I am pleased that their outstanding efforts for our community have been formally recognized by the Tempe Chamber.

Don and Bobbie wasted no time in getting involved in their community when they moved to Tempe thirty four years ago. It is easy to assume that this was strictly a team effort, but Don and Bobbie have each made significant individual contributions as well.

Bobbie has served as president of Tempe Leadership, the Tempe/Kyrene Communities in Schools and the Tempe Governors. She was a founder of the Communities in Schools group. She has also served on the Tempe Community Council Board of Directors, the Tempe Connections Advisory Council and the Tempe Citizens Corps Council.

Don has also served as President of a number of organizations, including Friendship Village of Tempe, Arizona Clean and Beautiful and the Tempe Nuevo Kiwanis Club. He has chaired the Valley Business Council and Valley Forward Association. I am also proud to have served with him during the time he was a member of the Tempe City Council, from 1984–1993.

Together they joined forces to help pass a transit tax in Tempe which goes toward improving public transportation, including the light rail system which starts running this year. In addition, it funds expanded bicycle paths, and a free neighborhood circulator bus to help increase ridership on public transportation.

I can't think of two people who are more deserving of this award, and I say congratulations for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF LUBBOCK, TEXAS ON ITS CENTENNIAL

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, as the city of Lubbock turns 100 years old, I could not be more proud to be part of a wonderful community that has grown to embrace all that is good in America. The traditional values upon which this country was founded still flourish and are taught to the next generation here.

The history of Lubbock is a story of men and women that came to this region with a dream. They came with a determination that would be tested over and over again. That "can-do" spirit turned this remote area of the High Plains of Texas into one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world. My grandfather came to Lubbock in 1909 to be part of this new community. Over the past 100 years, many visionary citizens stepped forward to build and strengthen this growing and developing town. Now today, because of their efforts, Lubbock is not only an important agricultural area, but it is also a city of world-class educational and medical facilities and the regional distribution center for the entire South Plains and part of New Mexico.

As we celebrate the past, let us look forward with great anticipation toward the future. Lubbock is not just a city celebrating 100 years. It's home to me. I am proud to call Lubbock home and am honored to represent each of its residents in the United States Congress.

TRIBUTE TO DWIGHT "PETE" MITCHELL

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dwight "Pete" Mitchell, a community leader in Southwest Michigan who is retiring this week after more than 35 years in public service.

In the center of downtown Benton Harbor sits a large rock, engraved with the name of Dwight "Pete" Mitchell City Center Park. That certainly represents Pete Mitchell—he's solid as a rock, a foundation for our community. An accomplished boxer as a young man, Pete Mitchell, like his hometown of Benton Harbor, has shown he can take a punch, and he can fight back and win. Many of the projects that are being accomplished right now that are leading Benton Harbor's renaissance have benefited from Pete's quiet and steady leadership. Whether it's the Arts District, downtown development, new housing, or new jobs and recreation, Pete was there with the vision and perseverance to put together the partnerships that are making a difference in lives of Benton Harbor residents.

While Pete is retiring as Benton Harbor City Manager, he has a long legacy of involvement in his community. A 1954 graduate of Benton Harbor High School, Pete has served on the Benton Harbor Area Schools board, the Air-

port Authority, the Council for World-Class Communities, the Boys and Girls Club, and a number of other organizations in his hometown. He has been honored by Lake Michigan College with the Distinguished Alumni Award, and was a recipient of the College's Diversity Award.

Pete Mitchell is a man who dedicated his life to his hometown, and to the betterment of his fellow man. He is truly "The Rock."

COMMEMORATING THE PASSING OF DR. ROBERT JASTROW

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, I would like to commemorate the passing of the prominent American scientist Dr. Robert Jastrow on February 8, 2008. Born in New York in 1924, Robert Jastrow worked in the U.S. lunar landing program, established and managed two scientific research centers, and played an active role in national public policy debates on national security and environmental policy.

Robert Jastrow earned his Ph.D. degree in theoretical physics at Columbia University. He became an assistant professor at Yale before joining the staff at the Naval Research Laboratory. In 1958, Dr. Jastrow was chosen to head NASA's new theoretical division. Dr. Jastrow immediately set to work planning the future space science program and drawing a high level of scientific talent into NASA.

Dr. Jastrow was convinced of the unique importance of the moon for understanding the origin of the earth and the other planets and was an early champion of lunar exploration. In 1958, he and Harold Urey, the Nobel Laureate chemist, made the case for NASA to build a significant program for lunar exploration, resulting in the establishment of the Ranger Project.

With permission from NASA and in association with Columbia University, Robert Jastrow organized the Goddard Institute for Space Studies and became its first Director in 1961. Scientists at the Goddard Institute, a government laboratory which carried out research in astronomy and atmospheric science, played a key role in the Pioneer, Voyager, and Galileo planetary missions under Jastrow's guidance. In recognition of his work, Dr. Jastrow received the NASA Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement and the Arthur Fleming Award for Outstanding Service to the U.S. Government.

Dr. Jastrow stayed at the helm of the Goddard Institute for 20 years before becoming joining the faculty at Dartmouth College, where he held the position of Professor of Earth Sciences until 1992. In that year he resigned to become Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Mount Wilson Institute, which manages the Mount Wilson Observatory in California on behalf of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Dr. Jastrow retired as Director of the Mount Wilson Institute in January 2003. He also was a member of the Board of Governors of the National Space Society.

With Drs. Frederick Seitz and William Nierenberg, Dr. Jastrow founded the George C. Marshall Institute in 1984 to conduct as-

sessments of scientific issues affecting public policy. He was an influential figure in the public debates on ballistic missile defense and climate change. At the Institute, he worked to provide the Congress and successive Administrations with perspectives and interpretations of scientific and technical matters.

Dr. Jastrow was a prolific author and public commentator on the space program, astronomy, earth science, and national security. He hosted more than 100 CBS-TV network programs on space science and was the special guest of NBC-TV with Wernher von Braun for the Apollo-Soyuz flights. Dr. Jastrow's articles have appeared in the New York Times, Time, Reader's Digest, Foreign Affairs, Commentary, Atlantic Monthly and Scientific American. His books include Red Giants and White Dwarves—the Evolution of Stars, Planets and Life; Until the Sun Dies: God and the Astronomers; The Enchanted Loom—Mind in the Universe; Astronomy—Fundamental and Frontiers; Journey to the Stars—Space Exploration Tomorrow and Beyond, How to make Nuclear Weapons Obsolete and Scientific Perspectives on the Greenhouse Problem with William Nierenberg and Frederick Seitz. Dr. Jastrow's contributions to science will be missed, and I extend my condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, on February 28, 2008, I was away from the Chamber and unable to vote. I would like the RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote Nos. 85, 86 and 87.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL I.D. THEFT PREVENTION WEEK, MARCH 3-7, 2008

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Identity Theft Prevention Week in Arizona and in several other states, as well as Consumer Protection Week around the Nation, and to bring attention to this growing and troubling trend in crime. Identity theft is a serious offense that occurs when someone uses your personal information without your permission to commit fraud or other crimes.

Unfortunately, Arizona is one of the states hardest hit by identity theft, which continues to impact millions of victims and remains the fastest-growing white-collar crime in the United States. Identity theft costs businesses and consumers billions of dollars each year. Additionally, victims must take valuable time and often endure tremendous stress as they work to repair the damage to their credit and accounts.

However, Arizona is also the site of some of the Nation's most innovative efforts to combat

this crime. The Arizona Attorney General's Office regularly hosts "shred-a-thons" where residents can safely destroy documents containing personal information. And private companies like Lifelock, which is headquartered in my hometown of Tempe, has become a nationwide industry leader in helping consumers to proactively protect their personal information and render it useless to criminals.

Madam Speaker, I wish to applaud these efforts and encourage my colleagues to join me in doing all that I can to turn the tide against identity thieves across the Nation.

IN HONOR OF HUGH PATRICK CARROLL

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, today an effective and loyal member of my staff serves his last day in my office. But, he does not leave his service to Mississippi. Hugh Carroll, my legislative director, will be moving to the other chamber to serve in the office of Senator ROGER WICKER, my friend and our former colleague in the House who is now serving out the remaining term of Trent Lott.

Hugh came to Washington, DC, from Greensboro in the Piedmont of North Carolina. He earned his undergraduate and law degrees from the Catholic University of America here in Washington. Hugh served as a law clerk for the Architect of the Capitol and the General Services Administration. Prior to that, he interned both with the House Committee on the Judiciary as well as with Congressman HOWARD COBLE.

I first met and worked with Hugh when he served on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure staff as counsel. He worked closely with my office on Hurricane Katrina recovery legislation and investigations. At that committee, he helped draft "A Failure of Initiative: The Final Report of the Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina." I served on that select bipartisan committee and grew to appreciate Hugh's work and insights.

Hugh joined my staff in February 2007 to serve as my chief counsel and legislative director, and oversee my telecommunications policy. His tenacity and natural instincts fit my policy objectives, and he effectively assisted in moving my legislative and appropriation priorities forward. His knowledge of Hurricane Katrina issues provided the ready experience necessary to hit the ground running for my State's continuing recovery needs.

I know that Hugh's parents, Marvin and Sandra Carroll, are proud of him and his work for the House of Representatives. I am proud of his work for Mississippi and while sorry to see him leave my staff, am glad he will continue to serve my district and my constituents as an aide to Senator WICKER.

My staff will remember Hugh Carroll's dry humor, passion for the Boston Red Sox, love of his dog, and interesting wardrobe choices. I hope Hugh will remember all the work we have accomplished together, and also the symbolism of "The Five Flags." We all will remember his good nature, determined work ethic, and professional accomplishment of his

duties. I thank him for his hard work, and wish him the best of fortune in his new assignment and future endeavors.

THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY (IRENA) ACT OF 2008

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I am introducing the International Renewable Energy Agency Act today because our energy security, the health of our planet, and the strength of our economy have reached a critical juncture. As gasoline prices creep towards \$4 per gallon, and emissions of heat-trapping gases continue to climb to dangerous levels, two things have become clear. First, a fundamental change is needed in the way we generate and use energy here at home. Secondly, the rest of the world must be also part of this new energy future. The legislation I am introducing today calls for the establishment of an International Renewable Energy Agency, IRENA, to address both of these challenges.

This week, world leaders from government, civil society and private business are meeting as part of the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference, WIREC, of 2008 to discuss a major scale-up in the deployment of renewable energy technology around the world. This collaboration is a good start, but the urgency of global warming and our dependence on oil require that we take the lead in creating a permanent international agency to drive the development and deployment of renewable energy in all countries, including ours.

Despite the enormous strides renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies have made over the last several years, hurdles remain to major and rapid scale-up on the level needed to meet the world's need for energy while also addressing global warming. IRENA will provide the institutional support needed to address the technological, financial, informational, and policy barriers that keep renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies from reaching their full potential.

Renewable energy has the potential to reduce global warming pollution while also creating millions of "green jobs," reducing our dependence on foreign sources of energy, and spurring the technological development that will fuel the global economy over the coming century.

New investment in clean energy technology worldwide topped \$148 billion in 2007, an increase of 60 percent over 2006 and up from just \$33 billion in 2004. However, about two thirds of this investment lies in just six countries. Over the next two decades, greenhouse gas emissions from developing countries are projected to grow at more than twice the rate of those in developed countries. Encouraging growth of renewable energy in developing countries reduces the extent and likelihood that these economies will follow a carbon-intensive, fossil energy development path. It also opens a valuable market for the clean energy companies that developed economies will rely on for growth over the coming century. The International Renewable Energy Agency

will have the independence, credibility, and expertise necessary to assist governments at the national, state, and local level implement renewable energy policies and projects.

Existing international energy agencies were formed to address narrow problems. The International Energy Agency, IEA: oil security and fuel supply disruptions. The International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA: nuclear proliferation and safety. With the aid of institutional support, these energy resources became foundations of modern economies. An international renewable energy agency is needed to support the unique problems facing renewable energy: marketplace failures, political inertia, and information gaps. To this end, IRENA will:

Support governments in drafting policies and programs for the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures;

Assist governments in conducting studies that analyze the potential of renewable energies and the appropriateness of different technologies;

Provide long-term projections and scenarios based on existing data and policy in order to identify opportunities as well as gaps, barriers, and failures in markets and policies;

Organize training programs, information campaigns, and courses for civil servants, scientists, businesses, and non-government organizations;

Supply curriculum for schools and universities on relevant renewable energy topics;

Work with financial institutions to support innovative financing mechanisms for renewable energy projects;

Develop international norms and quality standards;

Gather and disseminate data, statistics, and reports on renewable energy deployment, policy approaches, and technology development.

The status quo is not working for America or the planet. The environmental, energy, and economic problems we are facing are largely due to a failed energy policy. An international renewable energy agency represents an opportunity for America to change its energy path and confront global warming while reestablishing its leadership role and reputation in the international community.

CONGRATULATING THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the State Bar of Arizona on its 75th anniversary. The Arizona Bar Association was first incorporated in Arizona in 1906 and in 1912 first began official admission procedures for the practice of law. On March 17, 1933, the State Bar of Arizona was established as a mandatory membership organization through an act of the Arizona State Legislature. Since its statutory establishment, it has functioned as a self-policing organization that has worked to ensure that the legal profession in Arizona maintains the highest possible ethical standards and technical skill.

The State Bar of Arizona is guided in its service of the public by the core values of integrity, service, diversity, professionalism, promotion of justice, and leadership. The State

Bar utilizes these core values to further the legal profession and the administration of justice.

The State Bar serves not only the legal profession, but also the public, ensuring equal access to high quality legal services for all Ari-

zona residents. The State Bar also serves the public through its participation in programs like "Wills for Heroes" where members of the State Bar donate their time and talent to provide free legal services in the area of wills and probate to emergency personnel in Arizona.

The State Bar of Arizona and its nearly 20,000 members should be proud of the work they continue to do to ensure that all Arizonans have access to equal justice.